

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 13

Summer Announcement # 11, Districts 1, 2, and 3 Subsistence Fishing Schedules

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The 2013 Chinook salmon run timing is tracking similarly to the 2012 run, and is considerably later than historical averages based on test fishery indices. The historical average first quartile for other similar late run years is June 20. Based on historical run timing for late years, current test fishery data, and subsistence harvest reports, it is likely that the first pulse of Chinook salmon will enter the river over the course of the next few days.

Based on the poor preseason projection and in accordance with new regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries, subsistence fishing will be closed to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon. It is likely the closure will be extended if inseason assessment indicates that it is necessary to protect the second pulse. The closure will be initiated in the northern portion of the Coastal District and District 1 and similarly implemented in upriver fishing districts and subdistricts based on migratory timing.

Coastal District: Subsistence salmon fishing is currently open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon. Fishermen are reminded that state waters beyond 1 mile offshore of District 1 are included in the Coastal District.

The Coastal District will be further subdivided into two management areas to allow for more management precision and flexibility when altering the subsistence salmon fishing schedule to conserve Chinook salmon.

Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 20, in the northern portion of the Coastal District from 62 degrees North latitude to Point Romanof and 3 miles offshore, subsistence salmon fishing will be closed until further notice. Management actions taken in the northern portion of the Coastal District will be coordinated with actions taken in District 1 to provide protection to Chinook salmon prior to entering the river.

In the southern portion of the Coastal District, from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62° North latitude, the current subsistence salmon fishing schedule remains unaltered and is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

District 1: Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in District 1 is closed to subsistence salmon fishing. District 1 will remain closed during the next subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 20, to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon as it passes through this district.

District 2: Currently, subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 is closed. Subsistence salmon fishing will be open in District 2 from 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, until 8:00 a.m. Friday, June 21, with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

District 2 will be closed during the subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin at 8:00 p.m. Sunday, June 23, to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon as it passes through this district.

District 3: The District 3 subsistence salmon fishing schedule is unaltered by this announcement. Subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 36-hour periods per week from 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 8:00 a.m. Fridays and from 8:00 p.m. Sundays until 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

Fishermen in the Coastal District and Districts 1-3 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the subsistence salmon fishing closures to protect the first pulse of Chinook salmon as it passes through these districts. The department will notify fishermen by June 23 concerning the subsistence salmon fishing schedules in these districts.

As a reminder, in the Innoko River, subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days a week, 24 hours per day with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During the subsistence salmon fishing closures, all gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG

office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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